

Serial No. : 10/039,720
Filed : December 31, 2001

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the examiner objected to the specification because of the informalities such as typographical errors. Accordingly, the applicant has amended the specification to correct the informalities. In this opportunity, the applicant has reviewed the specification and amended the specification to more clearly disclose the present invention. This is to verify that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Also in this opportunity, the applicant has amended the drawings to add a "Prior Art" label to Figures 1A-1C and Figures 2A-2E. The applicant has submitted currently herewith replacement sheets of the amended drawings.

The examiner objected to Claim 5 because of the typographical error therein. Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claim 5 to correct the error. The examiner rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the lack of antecedent basis for "the multiplexer". Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claim 6 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In the Office Action, the examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida (U.S. Patent No. 6,253,360). The examiner rejected Claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the cited Yoshida reference in view of the cited Sugamori reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,544).

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Accordingly, the applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations in Claim 2.

As a result of the above amendment, the applicant believes that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is no longer applicable to the present invention defined in Claim 1. However, the applicant anticipates that the examiner would reject Claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the cited Yoshiba reference and Sugamori reference. Under the circumstances, the applicant respectfully requests for disqualifying the cited Yoshiba reference and the cited Sugamori reference from the prior art against the instant case based on the common ownership. The filing date of the instant is December 31, 2001 which is after the November 29, 1999 threshold.

At the time of the invention in the instant case, the subject matters of the cited Yoshiba reference and the cited Sugamori reference and the claimed invention in the instant case were owned by the same assignee or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same assignee, Advantest Corporation. Thus, the cited Yoshiba reference and the cited Sugamori reference should be disqualified as prior art against the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the technology disclosed by the cited Yoshiba reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,253,360) noted above.

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The applicant respectfully requests that the cited Yoshiba reference be disqualified from prior art against the instant case based on the common ownership. The filing date of the instant is December 31, 2001 which is after November 29, 1999.

At the time of the invention in the instant case, the subject matters of the cited Yoshiba reference and the claimed invention in the instant case were owned by the same assignee or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same assignee, Advantest Corporation. Thus, the cited Yoshiba reference should be disqualified as prior art against the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, the examiner rejected Claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the technologies disclosed by the cited Yoshiba reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,253,360) noted above in view of the cited Goto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,855) and further in view of the cited Sugamori reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,544). The applicant respectfully requests that the cited Yoshiba reference and the cited Sugamori reference be disqualified from prior art against the instant case based on the common ownership. The filing date of the instant is December 31, 2001 which is after November 29, 1999.

At the time of the invention in the instant case, the subject matters of the cited Yoshiba reference, the cited Sugamori reference, and the claimed invention in the instant case were owned

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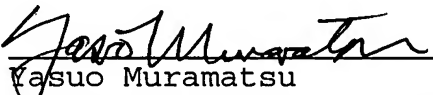
by the same assignee or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same assignee, Advantest Corporation. Thus, the cited Yoshiba reference and the cited Sugamori reference should be disqualified as prior art against the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant believes that Claims 1 and 3-8 are in condition for allowance, and accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 10/13/04

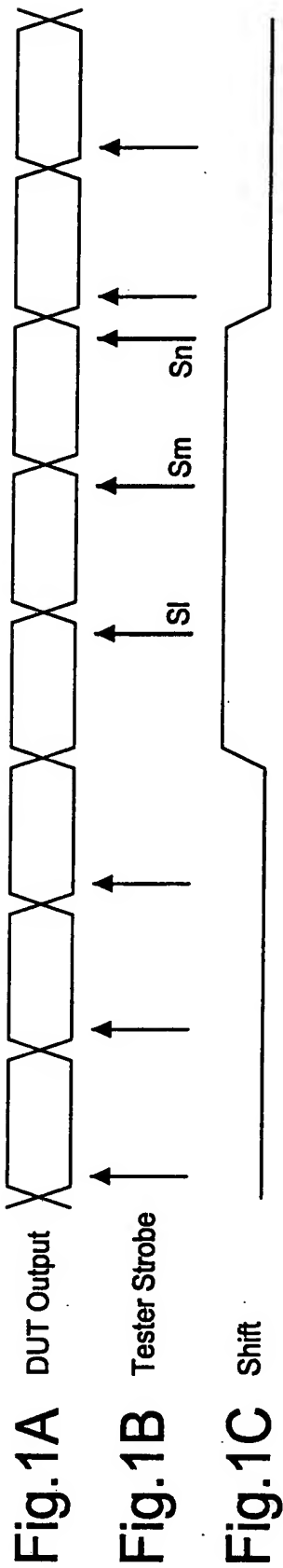
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IN THE DRAWINGS:

The applicant has submitted concurrently herewith a request for approval of drawing changes in which a "Prior Art" legend is added to Figures 1A-1C and Figures 2A-2E. Replacement sheets of the drawing are also submitted.

Prior Art



Prior Art

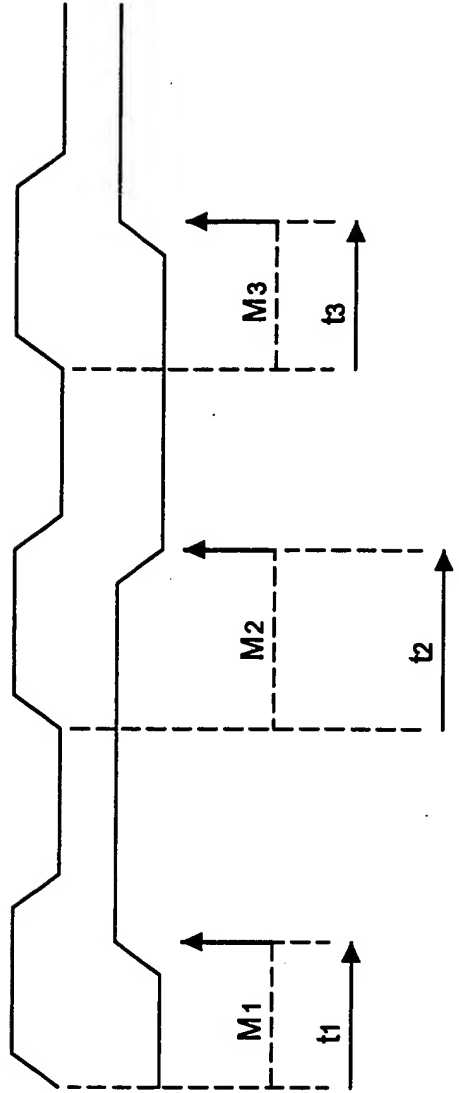


Fig.2A DUT Clock Input

Fig.2B DUT Output

Fig.2C Tester Strobe Point

Fig.2D DUT Delay : L → H

Fig.2E DUT Delay : H → L